



**METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION**

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October 25, 2002

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
Department of Transportation
1120 N. Street
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Morales:

I am pleased to report that on October 23, 2002, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted the Interim 2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a comprehensive listing of all Bay Area transportation projects that receive federal funds or that are subject to a federally required action. The Interim 2003 TIP covers the three-year period from FY 2002-03 through FY 2004-05, and totals approximately \$8 billion. Funds shown in prior or later years are for informational purposes, or for possible advances using advance construction (AC) authority.

MTC developed the Interim TIP in cooperation with county Congestion Management Agencies, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, transit operators, cities, counties, Caltrans, and in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Earlier this year, MTC developed a Draft 2003 TIP and scheduled it for adoption by the Commission at its July 24th meeting; however, due to an order issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit staying EPA's approval of the motor vehicle emission budget (MVEB), MTC was not able to approve the 2003 TIP as originally scheduled. The MVEB is necessary for MTC to conform the TIP as required by federal air quality regulations. Pending resolution of the EPA lawsuit, MTC prepared a draft Interim TIP, released it for a 30-day public comment period, and held a public hearing to receive comments and other testimony on October 9, 2002. The Interim TIP was adopted by the MTC on October 23, 2002.

During a conformity lapse, which currently exists in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Interim TIP does not require a conformity analysis. The 2003 Interim TIP was developed consistent with the national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Transportation Conformity signed by FHWA and EPA on April 25,

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2000. This MOU requires that Interim TIPS only contain projects that are exempt from transportation conformity review and Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). MTC has included projects that implement State Implementation Plan (SIP) obligations for TCM 2, as interpreted by the federal District Court.

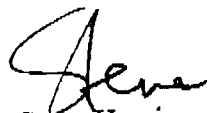
The projects in the Interim 2003 TIP were selected to carry out the goals and objectives in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan prepared by MTC. The Interim TIP is financially constrained by estimates of reasonably available resources. The financial plan is documented in the 2001 RTP, as well as in Figure 1 of the Interim TIP. A listing of projects obligated in the region during fiscal year 2001-02, as well as other required documentation, will be sent under separate cover.

We request that Caltrans approve the enclosed Interim 2003 TIP for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area and forward it to FHWA and FTA to be amended into the State of California's FY 2002-03 - FY 2004-05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Copies of the Interim 2003 TIP are available at the MTC/ ABAG Library, and at major public libraries in each of the nine Bay Area counties. The Interim 2003 TIP is also available on the MTC Web site at: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/publications/tip/tipind.htm>

If you have any questions please contact Ross McKeown at (510) 464-7842 or via e-mail at: rmckeown@mtc.ca.gov or Raymond Odunlami at (510) 464-7717 or via e-mail at: rodunlami@mtc.ca.gov

Sincerely,



Steve Heminger
Executive Director

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C: Gary N. Hamby, FHWA
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